

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a specific standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Jason Soto /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson /s/		
General Order No: P-350-17	Issued: June 8, 2004	Revised: October 24, 2017
General Order Title: RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM		

POLICY

The Reno Police Department Ride-Along Program allows citizens to accompany and observe a police officer in a patrol car while the officer is on duty. While participation in the Ride-Along Program is a privilege, the Reno Police Department will make every effort to accommodate Ride-Along requests from members of our community who meet the eligibility requirements. The Reno Police Department reserves the right to prevent certain individuals from participating in the program and to terminate a Ride-Along at any time for any reason.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Persons considered for a ride-along must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older, unless their parent or guardian signs a waiver, provides a copy of the child's and parent's or guardian's identification and the exemption is approved by a Deputy Chief.
2. Must not have any outstanding warrants.
3. Must not have any criminal convictions, except minor offenses.
4. Must not have any prior arrests for violent crimes.
5. Must not have any pending criminal charges.
6. Must not have any civil claims or lawsuits against the City of Reno or any of its employees.
7. Must have a history of sound mental health.
8. Must not have a history of gang involvement.
9. Must adhere to all requirements listed in the application package.
10. Must not have participated in a Ride-Along with the Reno Police Department in the preceding 12 months, unless approved by a Deputy Chief.
11. Must be able to adhere to the Ride-Along Program Guidelines.

PROCEDURES

Application Process

Persons wishing to participate in a Ride-Along, including friends and/or family members of Reno Police Department employees, must first complete an application, the necessary waivers and review and adhere to the Ride-Along Program Guidelines. Blank applications, waivers and Ride-Along Program Guidelines are available at the front desk of the Main Station. All completed applications must be submitted to The Patrol Secretary for processing.

Patrol Secretary Responsibilities

The Patrol Secretary coordinates the Ride-Along Program. The Patrol Secretary will:

1. Conduct a background check of each applicant. This includes running a criminal history, warrants check and obtaining appropriate approvals.
2. Notify the applicant of the status of their application.
3. Schedule approved Ride-Along requests.
4. Forward approved applications to a sergeant on the shift requested by the applicant, so long as there are no more than two Ride-Along Program participants already scheduled on that shift and so long as there are no special events occurring on the date requested.
5. Maintains files of all approved and denied applications and track the number of Ride-Along requests.

Supervisor Responsibilities

Supervisors are responsible for assigning the Ride-Along Program participant to an officer from the shift and ensuring that the participant is appropriately prepared for the ride along. The supervisor will:

1. Check the participant's identification and ensure it matches the application.
2. Ensure that the participant does not have a weapon of any kind. This applies to off-duty officers from other agencies and jurisdictions.
3. Ensure that the participant does not have a camera, video equipment or any other recording device and ensure that the participant understands that taking photos or videos with their phone is not permitted.
4. Ensure that the participant has appropriate hygiene and attire.
5. Prevent the Ride-Along from starting or terminates the Ride-Along at any time for any reason deemed necessary. Reasons could include but are not limited to the safety of the participant and/or officer, workload, demeanor of the participant and dress or appearance of the participant.

Officer Responsibilities

Officers who are assigned a Ride-Along Program participant must provide for their own safety and that of the participant. Officer responsibilities include:

1. Ensuring that the participant follows his or her instructions at all times.
2. Taking necessary precautions to keep the participant safe.
3. Act in a professional manner throughout the Ride-Along.
4. Terminating the Ride-Along at any time whenever the participant violates any of the Ride-Along Guidelines.

Participant Responsibilities:

1. Participant is required to adhere to all policies and procedures related to the program.
2. Participant may request the Ride-Along end at any time during the shift.

Exemptions

Reno Police Department Explorers, certain approved Law Enforcement Chaplains and on-duty City of Reno employees are not considered Ride-Along Program participants and therefore are not required to meet the eligibility requirements nor must they complete the application. However, they must complete the waiver and their ability to participate in a Ride-Along must be approved by a Deputy Chief. Explorers, under the age of 18, need to provide the signed waiver from their parent or guardian.

Media Ride-Along Requests

Journalists, reporters and/or members of the media who wish to participate in a Ride-Along in that capacity must complete the Ride-Along Program application and must complete an additional Media Waiver, which are kept by the Patrol Secretary. Media Ride-Along requests must be reviewed and approved by a Deputy Chief and the City Attorney's Office.